

Appl. No. 09/782,892

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7, 10, 14-17, 22-27, 29, 31-41, 44-47, 53-55, 57-60, 65, 78, 82 and 84-222 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated October 29, 2003, the Examiner allowed claims 35-41, 44, 45, 60, 65, 78, 82, 84-222. The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 10, 22-27, 29, 34, 46, 47 and 57-59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,456,627 to Jackson *et al.* ("Jackson"). The Examiner objected to claims 14-17, 31-33 and 53-55 as dependent on a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations in the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant again wishes to thank Examiner Rachuba for her careful attention to the present application and for her careful review of the prior art.

In order to expedite the issuance of claims in the present application, applicant is amending claims according to the Examiners' indication of allowable subject matter. It is understood, however, that the applicant does not agree with the rejections based upon the prior art, and is amending the present claims solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of the subject matter that is indicated as allowable. Accordingly, the applicant reserves the right to present any of the claims in the present application in non-amended form in any continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application.

Claim 1 is amended to include the limitation of claim 14. Claim 1 is now in allowable form. Claims depending from claim 1 are also allowable based upon the allowable form of the base claim and further in view of the additional limitations in the dependent claims. Claim 14 is cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 22 is amended to include the limitation of claim 31. Claim 22 is now in allowable form. Claims depending from claim 22 are also allowable based upon the allowable form of the base claim and further in view of the additional limitations in the dependent claims. Claim 31 is cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 46 is amended to include the limitation of claim 53. Claim 46 is now in allowable form. Claims depending from claim 46 are also allowable based upon the allowable form of the base claim and further in view of the additional limitations in the dependent claims. Claim 53 is cancelled without prejudice.


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Claims 223-276 are new. No new matter has been introduced through the introduction of these claims.

Claim 223 is former claim 1 that incorporates the limitations of dependent claims 14 and 15. Claims 224-230 are former dependent claims 2-4, 7, 10, 16 and 17, respectively. Claim 231 is former claim 1 that incorporates the limitations of dependent claims 14 and 16. Claims 232-238 are former dependent claims 2-4, 7, 10, 15 and 17, respectively. Claim 239 is former claim 1 that incorporates the limitations of dependent claims 14 and 17. Claims 240-245 are former dependent claims 2-4, 7, 10, 15 and 16, respectively. Claim 246 is former claim 22 that incorporates the limitations of dependent claims 31 and 32. Claims 247-254 are former dependent claims 23-26, 27, 29, 33 and 34, respectively. Claim 255 is former claim 22 that incorporates the limitations of dependent claims 31 and 33. Claims 256-263 are former dependent claims 23-26, 27, 29, 32 and 34, respectively. Claim 264 is former claim 46 that incorporates the limitations of dependent claims 53 and 54. Claims 265-269 are former dependent claims 47, 55, 57-59, respectively. Claim 270 is former claim 46 that incorporates the limitations of dependent claim 55. Claims 271-276 are former dependent claims 47, 53, 54, 57-59, respectively.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. If there are any remaining matters that can be handled in a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney, Steven H. Arterberry, at (206) 903-8787.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosures

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Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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